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INTELLIGENCE

CLASSIFICATION SECRET-CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY [redacted]

COUNTRY Austria REPORT NO. [redacted]

TOPIC Purge of the Socialist Party of Austria in Styria

25X1A

EVALUATION [redacted] PLACE OBTAINED [redacted]

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25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT Late January 1950

DATE OBTAINED [redacted] 25X1A DATE PREPARED 3 May 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS **RETURN TO CIA LIBRARY**

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25X1X

1. The present purge in Styria of the Socialist Party of Austria has the following objectives:

   a. Freeing the party of all elements suspected of being in contact with the Communist Party or the Progressive Socialists.

   b. Excluding those elements who, as members of the Socialist Party of Austria, cooperate with the Communist Party in routine political or labor union questions, voting with them on such questions.

   c. Excluding elements involved in dishonest financial transactions.

   d. Discharging incapable functionaries.

2. Machold, party chairman of the Styrian Socialist Party of Austria, is personally conducting this purge. Up to now 18 district party secretaries have been affected. Eight of them were cited on points 1 and 2 of the reasons for discharge. Fifty percent of the functionaries are to be removed from office. Each of them is subject to at least one of the charges mentioned. About 25 to 28 percent of them are subject to charges 1 and 2.

3. The action is camouflaged as an economy measure. Emphasis at functionaries' meetings is placed on the financial difficulties facing the Socialist Party of Austria. (The first effect of this situation was the shut-down of 4 Styrian Socialist weeklies on 31 December 1949). The party headquarters actually is more interested in the political than the financial side of the action.

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